

The Hawaiian Star

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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DANIEL LOGAN EDITOR

TUESDAY MAY 31, 1910

Playgrounds have become one of the most popular causes now engaging the attention of mainland cities, great and small. A striking instance of this fact is given by Berkeley, the seat of the University of California, where lately "playground day" was celebrated in the various churches, the pastors of nine presenting the claims of playgrounds to their congregations. On the previous Friday ground was broken for an immense open air theater, with a seating capacity of 8,000, in which the drama, "As You Like It" was to be given on the evening of May 30 under the direction of Mme. Ada Dow Currier of New York, for the playground equipment fund committee. It is long since Dr. Hand, the physical director of the Honolulu Y. M. C. A., publicly advocated a central playground for this city, but no organized movement for the purpose has yet taken shape. Honolulu is slow in some things, unfortunately too often those where the welfare of the people at large is concerned. There is no lack of up-to-dateness in the provisions made by organizations among the affluent for the mutual recreation and pleasure of their own membership.

Representative McLachlan of California has pointedly called the attention of Congress to the inadequacy of Pacific Coast defenses and their neglect. The big guns are not protected against land attack, according to him, and in case of landing of hostile forces might be turned on the cities they are placed to defend. Perhaps the investigation the resolution of Mr. McLachlan calls for will go beyond the Coast and reveal a considerable slackness in the manner in which the defenses of Hawaii are being forwarded. The War Department, whether from insufficient appropriations or its own slow methods, does not make such a good showing in the fortifications of Honolulu as might have been expected. Damage to one important battery which occurred on the trial of the guns has long awaited repairs. There is delay of construction or equipment in other forts greater than seems necessary. Certainly any Congressional inquiry into Pacific Coast defenses ought to include Hawaii, the key to them.

"The Onlooker" (W. G. S.) in the Sunday Chronicle occasionally draws happily from the experiences of his late residence in Honolulu. He has given some readable Hawaiian historical and personal sketches, and in the last issue to hand he throws the following bouquet in which something of real value is conveyed:

San Francisco could, if it would, keep its market fairly full of grapes the year round, as Honolulu does. The Portuguese in Hawaii raise the finest Isabellas known, a delicate blue grape of elusive sweetness. They so cut their vines as to produce a crop at will, the object being to keep the market from being glutted, and to give every grower a chance at a fair price—25c for three pounds, \$16 per ton wholesale. Whenever California grapes gave out, the island Portuguese could begin shipping here and keep the product coming until the state crop was again ready for market. Given a steady trade they would extend their vineyards. Alligator pears come from Hawaii as well as bananas; but why not grapes and that incomparable breakfast fruit, the tree melon called papaya? Is it supposed that they might bring some insect pest with them?

In addition to the queer—not necessarily foolish—things said about the comet mentioned yesterday, the mail opened after the article was written brought others. Rev. Daniel J. McHugh, professor of astronomy in De Pauw University, Chicago, gave out the opinion that the comet lost its tail some time Wednesday night—the fateful eighteenth instant—and forthwith began generating a new tail. He said there were records of its having done the same thing in 1835, and it was believed that its tail was lost in March of this year. The other news from Chicago attributing an epidemic of the grip there to comet tail gas is decidedly interesting. There seemed to be an unusual amount of sickness in Honolulu when the comet was nigh, and all joking laid aside, there may be a great deal in the talk of cometary influence on humankind.

The story about airships visiting Fiji is told so circumstantially, withal coming apparently from plain and honest people, as to give it a strong air of probability. It is impossible, at the present stage of aerial navigation, to suppose that the vesicles had flown all the way from Europe. But that they might have been carried to the Pacific by some cruiser or even commercial liner, for a great experiment in distant exploration or reconnoitering by aerial means, is not so hard to believe. Germany and France are both going strong in aerial navigation for military purposes and both have colonies in the South Pacific.

The commander of the Nicaraguan warship Venus is said to have been "disgusted" with the note served on him by the captain of the United States steamship Paducah, warning him that he must not bombard Bluefields, and to have disappeared. The gaiety of nations would miss much but for these Latin-American wars.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Yes, if it had not been for this Nicaraguan affair, for instance, Honolulu would have missed last week the laugh it had at the Advertiser, when that paper tried to make its contemporaries understand that the Venus was engaging in the war under the British flag!

Artificial oxygen in athletic contests is a humbug, and should be disallowed. Half the benefit of athletic exercise is derived from the extraction of oxygen from the atmosphere by the lungs. Athletics are to develop stamina for the strain of life, and the more normal the conditions under which they are conducted the better. Stimulant, gaseous or liquid, from a bottle will not make a man.

GREAT NICOLA OPENS TONIGHT

After a most successful and triumphant tour of the principal cities of the United States and Europe, Nicola and his original company of sensational mystifiers will make a tour of the entire world, playing every large city on the globe. The Honolulu en-

gagement which commences at the Opera House promises to be a huge success. A large advance sale of seats has been made for every performance. Theater-goers who wish to witness Nicola's wonderful performance will have to attend to seat reservations immediately, as his engagement in Honolulu is limited to one week only and the seats are being taken up very rapidly. In order thoroughly to appreciate the magnitude of this entertainment it is only necessary for the reader to

know that it requires over ten tons of baggage and equipment properly to stage and present this mammoth and modern production of miracles and mysteries. Nicola is assisted by a half score of trained assistants and his program is interspersed with a list of feature vaudeville artists.

NORMAL SCHOOL MEETS PICKWICK

Mr. Frank Speaight, the famous Dickens reader, was enthusiastically received at the Normal School today. In his natural, easy manner he gave a selection from "Pickwick Papers" which won the applause of all—teachers and pupils. With this as an introduction he gave briefly his method of reading. This he grouped under three heads—how to read, what to read, and how to remember. He advised the books be owned (as all the classics are printed in cheap editions) and that the passages which appealed to the individual be marked for future reference; that time should not be wasted on trashy reading; and that imagination, and visualizing the scene be the means used for remembering. With the beautiful surroundings of these islands Mr. Speaight thinks that we have unusual opportunities for exercising the imagination. Mr. Speaight will remain in Honolulu for a month and will twice give us the chance to meet the characters of Charles Dickens.

FREAR TO MEET COL. ROOSEVELT

Governor Frear will meet Colonel Roosevelt in New York toward the end of next month.

The ex-president will arrive from Africa and Europe and the Hawaiian Governor will be in New York to attend his class reunion at Yale, he having graduated from that university twenty-five years ago.

The governor long wished the opportunity to attend this great reunion, but saw no hope for it until it is almost due, when circumstances had become such that matters of private importance are taking him east.

The Governor and Mrs. Frear leave here June 8 and expect to return here about July 15.

MR. YOUNG'S CONDITION

Inquiry at noon today concerning the condition of Alexander Young brought out the following statement: "Mr. Young is resting easy, is holding his own and improving slowly."

Mrs. B. H. Harriman widow of the late E. H. Harriman, the railroad magnate, is expected to visit Honolulu in July. Whether her daughter Mary, the bride of Charles Cary Rumsey, and the bridegroom will accompany her or not is not known.

Pineapple Juice

The Hawaiian Pineapple Co., Ltd., offers for sale 4000 shares of the capital stock of the Hawaiian Pineapple Products Co., Ltd., a company that has been formed chiefly for the purpose of exploiting the new and successful beverage, 'Dole's Pure Hawaiian Pineapple Juice.' Particulars can be obtained from any of the Honolulu brokers or from the Hawaiian Pineapple Co., Ltd., price \$18 per share; par value, \$20.00. Payments will be called for June 15. Subscriptions may be placed with any of the Honolulu brokers, and will be filled in the order received.

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MELES FOR DEAD SUNG ABROAD

PORTLAND, Ore., May 3.—Chanting the old tribal meles, six Hawaiians performed unique ceremonies over the body of Thomas Killwa, a native of the mid-Pacific islands, who died last week. Killwa was a member of the Royal Hawaiian orchestra, which is engaged at the Oregon Grill, and he had been in this state for the past two years.

"Meles" are songs in the kanaka dialect which relate the history of the deceased and his family back as far as his ancestry can be traced, and they are only sung on the occasion of a luau (feast) or a death. It is an ancient custom in Hawaii in which the old-time natives take great pride.

Killwa was buried from the Catholic church at Fourth and Mill streets, the solemn rites of that church also being celebrated over his body. The pallbearers were all Hawaiians, members of the singing organization. Their names are Jack P. Helelu, David Nape, Solomon Hiram, James Shaw, Ben Jones, and James Kulaha.

Among other songs which were rendered by the sweet-voiced singers of the South Sea Islands was "Aloha Oe" which translated, means "My Love goes with thee." Killwa was married in Oregon, his wife being an American girl. He had no children.

GOOD OLD SUMMER TIME.

Is around again and plans for the vacation are maturing. When you are discussing ways and means for enjoying every day of your vacation at a small expense do not overlook Haleiwa. Inducements are offered there to teachers and a reduction is to be made to them from the regular rates. Golf, tennis, boating and swimming are among the attractions. Phone the manager for particulars.

A Match

Is a small bit of wood tipped with a bit of sulphur phosphorus etc. In the hands of careless persons it is capable of destroying your homes, your household goods and other belongings. Matches often get carelessly thrown about.

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Map in my window.

Chas. S. Desky

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